

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-11 AID-05 ACDA-05

/110 W

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R 301545Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2755

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 0407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, AO, NG

SUBJ: OAU SUMMIT FEEDBACK AND ANGOLA

REF: NIAMEY 134

1. DURING WAIT AT AIRPORT JANUARY 29 FOR ARRIVAL OF PRINCESS ASHRAF OF IRAN ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO NIGER, HAD SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN DJERMAKOYE, ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR NEKLI AND NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR BALEWA ON OAU SESSION AND ANGOLA.

2. I ASKED THE FONMIN FOR HIS IMPRESSION OF OAU SUMMIT. WAS HE ENCOURAGED OR DISCOURAGED BY RESULTS? DJERMAKOYE SAID HE WOULD DESCRIBE PROCEEDINGS AND RESULTS AS CONFIDENTIAL

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DISQUIETING. AFRICANS WERE GENERALLY INFORMAL AND

FLEXIBLE PEOPLE (SOUPLE) AND AT CONFERENCES DEALING WITH AFRICAN MATTERS COULD USUALLY FIND WAY TO GET ALONG AND RESOLVE ISSUES IN A CHEERFUL ATMOSPHERE. THIS MEETING HAD BEEN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT AND FOR FIRST TIME IN HIS EXPERIENCE HE HAD FOUND INTRANSIGENCE AND BITTERNESS AND NO DIALOGUE BETWEEN RIVAL GROUPS. HE WAS AMAZED AT PERSONAL ATTACKS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ONE COUNTRY ON CHIEF OF STATE OF ANOTHER.

3. DJERMAKOYE WENT ON TO SAY THIS DID NOT BODE WELL FOR OUA'S FUTURE HANDLING OF ANGOLAN ISSUE. HOWEVER, NIGER WOULD CONTINUE TO FAVOR POLICY OF DIALOGUE AND MODERATION AND AS ONE OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS OF OAU THIS YEAR IT IS PREPARED TO DO WHAT IT COULD PROMOTE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. WHILE NIGER ON EVE OF THE SUMMIT HAD REVERSED ITSELF AND RECOGNIZED MPLA "FOR LAST MINUTE SPECIAL REASONS" (WHICH DJERMAKOYE DID NOT EXPLAIN), IT CONTINUES TO FAVOR GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IN ANGOLA AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES.

4. HE ASKED WHAT ROLE DJERMAKOYE SAW FOR US. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK US COULD OR SHOULD TURN ITS BACK ON PROBLEM, IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR FORMULA IT HAD ADVANCED INVOLVING CEASE FIRE, WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES, GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY, ETC.

5. ON QUESTION OF NIGER'S RECOGNITION OF MPLA ON EVE OF OAU SUMMIT, CONTRARY TO BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS BY GON THAT IT FAVORED NON-RECOGNITION POLICY, BOTH ALGERIAN AND NIGERIAN AMBASSADORS SEPARATELY PROFESSED TO BE SURPRISED BY GON DECISION. ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD MADE SEVERAL DEMARCHES REGARDING ANGOLA BUT CLAIMED HE HAD NOT PUSHED ALGERIA'S CASE STRONGLY BECAUSE HE WAS ALSO DISCUSSING SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE WITH GON BUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS GAVE THAT ISSUE HIGHER PRIORITY. HE ATTRIBUTED NIGER'S REVERSAL TO PRESSURE FROM NIGERIA AND FROM MPLA -- WHOSE SPOKESMAN LUIS ALMEIDA, HAD VISITED NIAMEY JANUARY 7 (NIAMEY 134).

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6. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR BALEWA TOLD ME MINISTER OF DEFENSE BESSALA HAD PRESENTED NIGERIA'S CASE IN FAVOR OF MPLA FORCEFULLY AT A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ON JANUARY 5, BUT SAID KOUNTCHE HAD REAFFIRMED TO NIGERIAN DELEGATION GON DECISION NOT TO RECOGNIZE ANY FACTION BEFORE SUMMIT.

7. COMMENT: REASONS FOR NIGER'S LAST MINUTE

RECOGNITION OF MPLA REMAIN MYSTERY IF ABOVE CAN
BE BELIEVED. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH A SUPPORTER OF MPLA,
NIGER REMAINS A "MODERATE" AMONG RADICALS AND MAY YET HAVE
A CONCILIATORY ROLE TO PLAY. END COMMENT.HECK

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